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PATENT
Docket No. 287.00010101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): DARGONTINA et al.) Group Art Unit: 1711
Serial No.: 10/000,057) Examiner: Thao T. Tran
Confirmation No.: 9505)
Filed: November 1, 2001)
For: ABRASION RESISTANT COATING FOR STACKS OF FIBER CEMENT
SIDING

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed December 8, 2006, please note the following remarks concerning the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Comments on Statements of Reasons for Allowance

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*Applicant(s): DARGONTINA et al.**Serial No.: 10/000,057**Confirmation No.: 9505**Filed: November 1, 2001**For: ABRASION RESISTANT COATING FOR STACKS OF FIBER CEMENT SIDING*

Remarks

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance contained in the Notice of Allowance mailed December 8, 2006 for the above-identified matter.

The Examiner states that "it's agreed with Applicant that the prior art of record does not disclose or fairly suggest a method of making a fiberboard cement siding product in which at least "curing step does not expose the siding to a board surface temperature in excess of 100°C"" (e.g., page 2, Notice of Allowance mailed December 8, 2006).

To further clarify the record, Applicants submit that the prior art does not teach or suggest a "method of making a fiberboard cement siding product, comprising: providing a fiberboard cement substrate, coating a first major surface of the fiberboard cement substrate with a sealer; coating the exposed surface of the sealer with a primer; coating the exposed surface of the primer with a decorative coating; coating the exposed surface of the decorative coating with a topcoat layer comprising a polyurethane dispersion; and curing the topcoat layer to provide a mar and abrasion resistant coated fiberboard cement siding product; wherein the curing step comprises a thermal curing process that does not expose the siding to a board surface temperature in excess of 100 °C; wherein the fiberboard cement substrate has a density of at least 1 g/cm³ and comprises wood pulp, silica and cement, and the outer topcoat layer has a dry thickness of at least 8 microns" (e.g., independent claim 17).

Applicants further submit that the prior art does not teach or suggest a "method of making a stack of fiberboard cement siding products, comprising: preparing two or more coated fiberboard cement siding products, the method comprising: providing a fiberboard cement substrate; optionally coating a first major surface of the fiberboard cement substrate with one or more layers comprising a sealer, a primer, or both; coating one or more layers of a decorative coating to the outermost surface of the optionally coated fiberboard cement substrate layer; coating the exposed surface of the one or more layers of a decorative coating with a topcoat layer comprising a polyurethane dispersion; curing the topcoat layer to provide a mar and abrasion resistant coated fiberboard cement siding product; wherein the curing step comprises a thermal

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curing process that does not expose the siding to a board surface temperature in excess of 100°C; and stacking the two or more coated fiberboard cement siding products to form a stack; wherein the fiberboard cement substrate has a density of at least 1 g/cm³ and comprises wood pulp, silica and cement, and the outer topcoat layer has a dry thickness of at least 8 microns" (e.g., independent claim 52).

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The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 28th day of February, 2007, at 3:21 pm (Central Time).

Signature: Danielle MorozName: Danielle Moroz

Respectfully submitted by

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- ☒ Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 (7 pgs.)
- ☒ Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance (4 pgs.)
- ☒ Fees Transmittal form (1 pg) in duplicate.

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Feb. 28, 2007
 Date

Signature: Danielle Moroz
 Name: Danielle Moroz

If you do not receive all pages, please contact us at (612)305-1220 (ph) or (612)305-1228 (fax).